

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

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R 131100 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 877

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

USCINCSO

CINCLANT

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E. O. 11652: DECON ON MARCH 12, 1975.

TAGS: PGOV, MARR, NL, NA, NS

SUBJECT: MEETING OF REALM COMMISSION: DEFENSE NOTE
TO ACCOMPANY NETHS PROPOSAL FOR " LIGHT STATUTE"

REF: A. THE HAGUE 952 (NOTAL)

B. THE HAGUE'S A-312 OF NOV. 27, 1972 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: SOURCE IN REALM CABINET TOLD US THAT NETHS
SECTION OF REALM COMMISSION WILL SUBMIT " DEFENSE
NOTE" AS COMPANION PIECE TO DRAFT REALM STATUTE
(DUBBED " LIGHT STATUTE" BY PRESS) THAT WILL BE
PRESENTED DURING REALM COMMISSION MEETING OPENING
MARCH 12 IN CURACAO. NETHS SECTION STATES IN NOTE
THAT SURINAM AND NETHS ANTILLES (NA) MAY NOT WISH
TO GO BEYOND SETTING UP PARA- MILITARY FORCE FOR
INTERNAL SECURITY AND DISASTER ASSISTANCE AFTER
INDEPENDENCE. SINCE NETHS FORCES WOULD WITHDRAW AFTER
INDEPENDENCE, SURINAM AND NA WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON
OAS AND INTER- AMERICAN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS FOR
EXTERNAL SECURITY. NETHS SECTION ADVOCATES GON ROLE
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IN ESTABLISHING AND FINANCING PARA- MILITARY FORCE AND SUGGESTS THAT WORK START BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. RE COMMONWEALTH PROPOSAL (REF B), OUR SOURCE SAID ALTHOUGH SUBJECT WILL PROBABLY BE DISCUSSED, NETHS SECTION WILL FOCUS ITS EFFORTS ON PROPOSAL FOR NEW TRANSITION STATUTE TO REPLACE 19 54 REALM STATUTE. OUR SOURCE EMPHASIZED THAT BOTH DRAFT STATUTE AND DEFENSE NOTE ARE PROPOSALS ONLY AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BOTH IN REALM COMMISSION AND LATER IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THREE REALM GOVERNMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. ADAM, ACTING DIRECTOR OF REALM CABINET (SECRETARIAT TO ASSIST GEERTSEMA AS MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR REALM AFFAIRS) TOLD EMBOFF THAT IN ADDITION TO PROPOSING " LIGHT STATUTE" TO REPLACE 1954 REALM STATUTE, NETHS SECTION WILL TABLE " DEFENSE NOTE" DEALING WITH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL DEFENSE OF SURINAM AND NA DURING TRANSITION PERIOD AS WELL AS AFTER INDEPENDENCE. IF MFA BRIEFING (REF A) COVERED THIS, IT WAS NOT INCLUDED IN ANY OF PRESS ACCOUNTS, BUT ADAM SAID CONTENTS OF NOTE HAD BEEN LEAKED IN CURACAO AND PUBLISHED IN PRESS THERE. ADAM SAID HE COULD NOT PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH TEXT OF NOTE BUT COULD CONFIRM THAT CURACAO PRESS REPORTS (COPIES OF WHICH HE GAVE US) WERE ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE.

2. MAIN POINTS OF DUTCH PROPOSAL, AS REPORTED IN " AMIGOE" FEB 16 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) SURINAM AND NA WILL HAVE TO WEIGH THE NEED FOR HAVING THEIR OWN ARMED FORCES AFTER INDEPENDENCE AGAINST THE RELATIVELY HIGH COST OF SUCH FORCES WHICH AT ANY RATE WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO GUARANTEE THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE TWO AREAS.

(B) SURINAM AND NA WILL ALSO HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER PERFORMANCE OF SECONDARY OR NON- MILITARY TASKS, SUCH AS SUPPORT FOR POLICE IN INTERNAL SECURITY, DISASTER ASSISTANCE, BORDER CONTROL, ETC. REQUIRES A MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.

(C) IF DECISION IS NOT TO HAVE MILITARY FORCE, IT APPEARS REASONABLE THAT SURINAM AND NA WOULD SEEK TO GUARANTEE MAINTENANCE OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE THROUGH MEMBERSHIP IN OAS AND ADHERENCE TO SECURITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TREATIES, SUCH AS TREATY OF CHAPULTEPEC (IN

THIS CONNECTION, NETHS SECTION NOTES THAT PANAMA AND COSTA RICA GET ALONG WITH PARA- MILITARY FORCES ONLY.

(D) SECONDARY TASKS WHICH MIGHT ORDINARILY BE ASSIGNED TO ARMED FORCES COULD BE PERFORMED BY PARA- MILITARY ORGANIZATION.

(E) NETHS SECTION IS OF OPINION THAT NETHS, IF ASKED, SHOULD PROVIDE PERSONNEL, MATERIEL, AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUCH PARA- MILITARY FORCES FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME.

(F) IF SURINAM AND NA DECIDE TO SET UP PARA- MILITARY FORCES, THOUGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SETTING UP SUCH FORCES AND INITIATION OF TRAINING PROGRAMS BEFORE INDEPENDENCE.

(G) IF PARA- MILITARY FORCES ARE SET UP INSTEAD OF MILITARY SERVICES, MAKES LITTLE SENSE TO CONTINUE PROGRAMS OF " SURINAMIZATION" AND " ANTILLEANIZATION" OF DUTCH UNITS. NETHS ARMED FORCES WOULD, HOWEVER, REMAIN DURING TRANSITION PERIOD COVERED BY PROPOSED NEW STATUTE AND BE RESPONSIBLE FOR EXTERNAL DEFENSE. AS PARA- MILITARY FORCES TAKE SHAPE AND TAKE OVER NON- MILITARY FUNCTIONS OF DUTCH UNITS, LATTER COULD BE PROPORTIONATELY REDUCED IN SIZE.

(H) AFTER INDEPENDENCE, DUTCH FORCES STILL IN SURINAM AND NA WILL DEPART.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF QUESTION ABOUT COMMONWEALTH, PROPOSAL (REF B), ADAM SAID THAT NETHS SECTION HAS NOT REACHED AGREEMENT ON WHETHER SUCH A LONG- RANGE ARRANGEMENT IS DESIRABLE. ADAM REMINDED EMBOFF THAT EACH OF THREE SECTIONS OF REALM COMMISSION IS DIVIDED INTO TWO WORKING GROUPS, ONE DEALING WITH WAYS IN WHICH PRESENT CONSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIP COULD BE REVISED, AND THE OTHER WITH RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NETHS, SURINAM, AND NA IF LATTER TWO BECAME INDEPENDENT. LATTER WORKING GROUPS OF NETHS SECTION CAME UP WITH TWO PAPERS ON COMMONWEALTH ARRANGEMENT, ONE WRITTEN BY PROF. RIPHAGEN (MFA LEGAL ADVISER), WHICH WE ASSUME IS TEXT WE WERE GIVEN BY MFA LAST FALL, AND ANOTHER BY PROF. BOS. BOTH OF THESE REMAIN AS WORKING PAPERS, BUT AGREEMENT HAS NOT BEEN REACHED BY NETHS SECTION AS A WHOLE TO ACCEPT OR PROPOSE COMMONWEALTH. ADAM DID NOT EXCLUDE THIS AT LATER POINT IN DELIBERATION OF REALM COMMISSION, BUT PRIORITY IS BEING GIVEN TO CHANGING PRESENT REALM STATUTE IN ORDER TO LIGHTEN DUTCH RESPONSIBILITIES AS PREPARATION FOR INDEPENDENCE IN " NEAR FUTURE".
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4. ADAM EMPHASIZED THAT PROPOSAL OF NETHS SECTION FOR " LIGHT STATUTE" IS JUST THAT, A PROPOSAL, AND IS SUBJECT TO DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE CHANGE IN REALM COMMISSION. FURTHERMORE, ADAM POINTED OUT, WHATEVER REALM COMMISSION FINALLY COMES UP WITH IS NOT BINDING ON THREE REALM GOVERNMENTS, IT IS ONLY ADVISORY. ANY CHANGES IN NATURE OF REALM RELATIONSHIP MUST BE NEGOTIATED AMONG THREE GOVERNMENTS.

5. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT TACTICS OF NETHS SECTION ARE TO TRY TO NAIL DOWN PRINCIPLE OF INDEPENDENCE FOR SURINAM AND NA BEFORE DISCUSSING ANY LONG- TERM ARRANGEMENT, SUCH AS COMMONWEALTH, THAT MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED AFTER INDEPENDENCE. CONTENTS OF " LIGHT STATUTE" ALSO SUGGEST THAT NETHS SECTION IS TRYING, IN INTERIM BEFORE INDEPENDENCE, TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM DIVESTITURE OF RESPONSIBILITIES COMPATIBLE WITH CONTINUED EXISTANCE OF REALM AS TRIPARTITE ENTITY. IN EFFECT, NETHS SECTION SEEMS TO BE SAYING DUTCH ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE AND TO NEGOTIATE ON EXACT DATE FOR

INDEPENDENCE AND ON ARRANGEMENT TO CONTINUE TIES
AFTER INDEPENDENCE, PROVIDED SURINAM AND NA ACCEPT
INEVITABILITY OF INDEPENDENCE WITHIN RELATIVELY SHORT
PERIOD OF TIME AND ARE WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH
LIGHTENING GON BURDEN DURING TRANSITION PERIOD.
PRESS REPORTS HERE, HOWEVER, INDICATE THAT GOVERN-
MENTS OF SURINAM AND NA ARE OPPOSED TO " LIGHT STATUTE,"
AT LEAST IN ITS PRESENT FORM.
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